

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF STOW LONGA PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VICARAGE ROOM ON MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 8 PM**

Present: Councillors Hayes (Chairman), Allen, Millington and Young, and the Clerk (Mr D Stowell). There were no members of the public present.

78/09 Apologies for absence - none

79/09 Declarations of Interest - as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item - none.

80/09 Minutes of Meetings held 15 June & 15 July 2009 were approved and signed.

81/09 Matters arising

Bid for Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme - CCC have advised that if interactive signs were to be funded, the cost of electricity & maintenance would have to be met by the Parish Council, requiring an up-front commuted sum of approx. £6100 per installation based on 20 years annual costs of £305. Such signs will not be considered unless there is a history of personal injury accidents and the recorded 85%ile speed is more than 20% over the stated speed limit. As the 85%ile figure recorded in Stow Longa in June was 43 mph and there is no history of personal injuries, the bid will be marked only in respect of the alternative application for the speed limit to be painted on the road surface.

82/09 Co-option of councillor to fill vacancy – Votes cast were as follows: Susan Humfryes – 3 votes, John Taylor – 1 vote. Susan Humfryes was therefore declared to be co-opted to the Council for the remainder of the four year period expiring in 2011.

83/09 Finance

Insurance - The Clerk tabled details of a scheme negotiated by CPALC with Came & Company who offered a policy with Aviva which had improved benefits compared with the current Zurich policy arranged through Suffolk ACRE, but the minimum premium of £262.50 is higher. Following discussion it was resolved to stay with the current provider.

The following payments were approved:

100264 Cambs ACRE, Annual subscription £25.00

100265 Stow Longa PCC, Cemetery Mtce £335.00

100266 Stow Longa PCC, Use of Church for Parish Meeting £20.00

100267 Wicksteed, Annual inspection of playground £45.00 + £6.75 VAT = £51.75

100268 Suffolk ACRE, Annual insurance premium from 1/10/2009 £229.22

To note progress of External Audit:

1 June - e-mail acknowledged receipt and stated aim to respond within 4 weeks with any queries or concluding audit.

14 July - e-mail, in response to clerk's follow-up, advising that the Annual Return has passed through first stage checks and analytical review process and is awaiting review, which has been delayed due to sickness.

11 August - e-mail asking for Council's view of why the Internal Auditor is appropriate to the post, and a copy of his terms of engagement. The Clerk responded the same day with an explanation regarding his suitability for the post, together with a copy of the letter of appointment.

There has been no further communication from the External Auditor.

84/09 Health and Safety / Risk Assessment - to be provided at next meeting

85/09 Roads, footpaths, verges, trees (other than those covered by item 87/09)
Trees on verge, Kimbolton Road - Clerk to follow up request for advice from HDC Aboricultural Officer.

86/09 Repairs / replacements of village assets (other than those covered by item 87/09)
Inspection Report on play area

It was noted that the report of the annual inspection carried out by Wicksteeds on 30 June drew attention to the following matters:

- (1) Swing - chains fail link gap criteria - recommend replacement within 12 months - estimated cost - parts £88.80, fitting £80.00
- (2) Swing - top bar and castings - recommend painting to reduce corrosion - estimated cost - paint £45.00, rub down and repaint £160.00
- (3) Picnic table is approaching end of life - recommend replacement. N.B. Since the inspection a new table has been installed on site.
- (4) Park Seat - recommend the seat slats are rubbed down and treated.
- (5) Bird faeces on equipment should be monitored regularly and removed as required
- (6) Access by dogs is not physically prohibited - recommend monitoring and removal of animal faeces
- (7) Provision of fencing to prevent direct access to the surrounding roadway is recommended. Advisory road signs would be beneficial.
- (8) Provision of a sign is recommended giving details of emergency phone number and whom to contact should maintenance be required.

It was agreed to discuss these matters at the next meeting. In the meantime members will visit the site individually to assess the recommendations.

87/09 Outstanding Issues - progress

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| 1. Installing picnic table on play area | Completed |
| 2. Repairing seat near phone box | Clerk tabled quote (approx £770) from Glasdon for plastic seats. More quotes to be obtained. |
| 3. Tree for Peggy and Ray Convine | Cllr Hayes to arrange planting in Feb. Probably flowering cherry at end of play area nearest the church. |
| 4. Sign to Church | Mr Griffiths will repaint |
| 5. Damage to Green and sign by plant hire company | Green repaired by Rose Plant Hire Co
Cllr Hayes to collect sign parts from Mr Griffiths for repair by Rose Co. |
| 6. Damage to Green & verges by Anglian Water | Working party to level sunken areas with soil, and reseed. Consider turfing damaged banks. |
| 7. Border to planted area around village sign | Cllr Millington to locate source & cost of new border |
| 8. Moving post box | Clerk to chase Royal Mail |
| 9. Kerbing on village green & drain | Cllr Allen to get specification & quote from CCC |
| 10. Townlands Charity | Cllr Hayes to ask Mrs Wakefield to call a meeting to hand over to new trustees |

88/09 Planning

Appeal against HDC decision (to be dealt with by written representation)

Planning Application 0900226FUL, Dwelling, Land at Manor Farm, Spaldwick Road.
 The statement sent by the LPA to the Planning Inspectorate was noted.

The following LPA Decisions were noted

0900704FUL Staff room & toilet extension, Unit 1 Nene Road - Permission granted

0900842FUL 60m meteorological mast, W of Bicton Estate - Permission granted

Proposed new windfarm

The Chairman reported that Peter Webster had taken some photos at Pertenhall showing how the turbines might look. The Chairman agreed to speak to the Chairman of Kimbolton Parish Council to see what action they are taking.

It was resolved to write to Broadview, with a copy to HDC pointing out that, in the event of planning permission being granted, the Parish Council would be seriously concerned if construction traffic were to pass through the village. The Chairman agreed to draft the letter and circulate it to members for comment.

89/09 Correspondence

HDC Development Management Questionnaire - was completed by the Clerk on 26/8/09

Circulated 20/8/09

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) Briefing Note 1

Cambridgeshire Together debate "Rural Cambridgeshire: Ensuring a Vibrant Future"

Tuesday 29 September, Burgess Hall, St. Ives. Replies by 18 September

5.30 pm - Cambs ACRE AGM, 6.15 pm - 9.30 pm - Debate

Cambridgeshire Transport Commission, Report for CCC, Executive Summary July 2009.

Equality & Human Rights Commission, Public Sector Equality Duties, leaflet

Cambridgeshire Archaeology Historic Environment Team, Annual Report, 2008 / 09

Circulated 3/9/09

Rural Strategy Consultation Paper.

90/09 Any Other Business**91/09 Forthcoming meetings**

Monday, 19 October 2009

Monday, 30 November 2009

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm